REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application respectfully requested.

The application as filed reads, *inter alia*,"

> The products of this invention have time horizons measured in years or decades. Therefore, solid products, not viscous liquids or gels, are needed. The solid preferably contains a mixture of pesticide species. Some of the pesticide is dissolved in the solid medium, some may be tiny pesticide crystals or droplets, some is trapped between layers of the clay (*i.e.*, intercalated), and some is bound to tactoid species, and some to single platelets (exfoliated). This product is a dynamic system that evolves over the years. The evolving system is what generates the sustained release rates over decades of interaction with its environment. (application at page 9, ll. 25-32).
>
> These procedures do not use water or organic solvents, as is customary in intercalating and exfoliating clays. (application at p. 15, ll. 6-7 in the examples).
>
> Thus, the above-tabulated results indicate that the nanoclays have the capacity to sorb more active agent than conventional clays without use of water or organic solvents. Conventional sorption theory would predict that an increase in sorption capacity would be associated with higher release rates. That is, the additional active ingredient molecules would occupy clay surface sites that offer less firm binding. When the release rate data below are reviewed, the superiority of nanoclays to standard clays will be complete because the release rates are quite unexpectedly decreased! (application at p. 17, ll. 13-15).

These excerpts teach that the active control agents are "solids", that the loaded nanoclays are processed in the absence of "added" liquid solvents, and that unexpected, superior results were recorded for such a product. The claims have been amended to recite that the active control agents are solids and that the nanoclays are intercalated with onium amine compounds.

New claim 41 is based on the original application at page 5, ll. 7-14, wherein it is stated, *inter alia*, "In this invention, intercalation, tactoids, and exfoliation occur when the colloidal clay is chemically modified by prior treatment with onium amine compounds."

No new matter is added by virtue of these claim amendments and their entry respectfully is requested.

It is noted that all art rejections have been withdrawn. In view of the amendments and remarks submitted herewith, allowance of the claims and passage to issue of this application respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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